

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed May 3, 2007. Claims 1 has been amended. Claims 15-27 have been canceled. Claims 1-14 are pending.

Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the rejections as noted in the Office Action.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 11-13, 15 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph as indefinite. Specifically, the Office Action said that the limitation “ ... at least about ... days after forming the composition” was indefinite. Applicants have amended claim 1 and deleted the word about. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Man et al. (WO 02/02727)

The Office Action rejected claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Man et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants have amended the claims to call out an enzyme cleaning composition formulated to provide deterative enzyme that retains 80% of its initial activity at ambient temperature for at least 30 days. This is found in the US counterpart to Man et al. (US 6,624,132) at column 6, lines 9-10. Applicants have also canceled claim 15. These are the two elements that the Office Action stated were not supported by Man et al. and that the present application was not entitled to the filing date of Man et al. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Action’s analysis of the priority documents but have nevertheless amended the claims to advance prosecution. Since Applicants have amended the claims to clearly call out elements

from the Man et al. priority document, Applicants believe that the application is entitled to the filing date of Man et al. and that Man et al. should be removed as a reference. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Summary

It is respectfully submitted that each of the pending claims is in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is kindly requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' primary attorney-of-record, Anneliese S. Mayer, at (651) 795-5661, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.



Respectfully submitted,

ECOLAB INC.
Law Department
Mail Stop ESC-F7
655 Lone Oak Drive
Eagan, Minnesota 55121
Phone Number: (651) 795-5661
Fax Number: (651) 204-7507

Dated: July 16, 2007

By: /Anneliese S. Mayer/
Name: Anneliese S. Mayer
Reg. No. 54,434